

file 25 Nov 81  
J. G. mtg

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Executive Secretary

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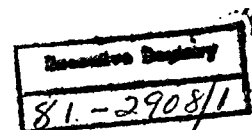
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State Dept. review completed



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520



November 30, 1981

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Senior Interdepartmental Group Memorandum No. 12

PARTICIPANTS: See Attached List

DATE AND TIME: November 25, 9:15 AM

PLACE: Room 7516, State Department

SUBJECT: SIG Meeting on Somalia

Summary of Conclusions

The SIG, chaired by Under Secretary Buckley, reviewed the question of military assistance to Somalia, basing its discussion on the IG recommendations and on ASD West's report of his recent trip to the country.

In response to the Somali request for ground equipment, the SIG approved offering transportation, communication and engineer items to Somalia. The Somali Defense Minister has been invited to Washington by Secretary of Defense Weinberger to discuss this and other options.

With respect to M-47 tanks, while not prepared to veto the transfer if the Somalis want to go ahead after learning all the facts, the SIG concluded that (1) in order to avoid an expensive Somali misjudgment, the condition of the tanks and the cost of restoring them to operable status should be determined and provided to the Somali government before it decides to go ahead with the transfer; and (2) the USG should not encourage the use of scarce FMS funding for an expensive program to refurbish the tanks, and if the Somalis appear to be headed toward such a program, we should urge wiser alternative uses of the funds. The consensus was that the USG should avoid giving the Somalis any reason to believe that we might somehow, outside of FMS, accept responsibility for bringing the tanks up to operational status. An approach to the Italian government to encourage its cooperation in bringing the tanks to usable state was discussed, but not approved for the time being, on the understanding that such an approach might be made later if

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RDS-1, 11/30/01

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- 2 -

it appeared desirable. The SIG approved sending a DOD team to Italy to assess the cost of M-47 tank refurbishment.

Relative to air defense, the SIG approved the Somali request to cancel the order for Vulcan air defense guns and also approved the offer of assistance in upgrading some of Somalia's Soviet-supplied radars and guns. It concurred in: (1) the development, in coordination with Egypt, of a program to repair Somali Soviet-supplied aircraft; and (2) provision of continuing U.S. assistance, either through contract or by MTT, for the maintenance of Somali equipment.

The SIG recognized that the measures approved would not be adequate to prevent Ethiopian air attacks on Somali towns. It therefore directed the IG to consider what equipment and resources would be necessary in order to provide such a capability and what other political and economic support could be given to Somalia. These matters will need to be considered by the NSC before President Siad's visit, tentatively scheduled for March, 1982.

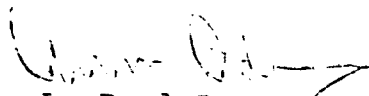
Action Assignments

-- A DOD technical team will examine the Italian M-47 tanks and prepare an estimate of repair costs for use with the Somali government.

-- DOD will host a visit of Somali Defense Minister Haji to Washington.

-- DOD will prepare, for consideration by the IG, proposals for repairing Somali aircraft and air defense missiles, and for assisting the maintenance of Somali equipment.

-- The IG will review a number of overall air defense assistance and other political and economic measures for strengthening Somali security, with a target of February 1, 1982, for delivery of recommendations to the NSC.

  
L. Paul Bremer, III  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

List of Participants.

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Distribution

OVP - Ms. Nancy Bearg Dyke  
NSC - Mr. Allen Lenz  
DOD - Col. John Stanford  
JCS - LTC Edward Bucknell  
CIA -   
OMB - Mr. William Schneider

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ATTENDANCE LIST

SIG on Somalia

November 25, 1981, 9:15 AM  
Room 7516, State Department

State

James Buckley, Chairman  
Paul Wolfowitz, S/P  
Richard Burt, PM  
Princeton Lyman, AF  
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OVP

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DOD

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CIA

John McMahon

OMB

William Schneider, Jr.

NSC

Adm. James Nance

**EYES ONLY**  
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Eyes Only for

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Contents of this envelope:

Memo for: Participants of 25 Nov SIG re Somalia  
From: Dept of State (L. Paul Bremer, III)  
Date: 30 November 1981  
Subject: SIG meeting on Somalia

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## Routing Slip

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Remarks:

Executive Secretary

Date